

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 TRSE-00 EUR-12 COME-00 EA-06 /096 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7168

INFO USUN NEW YORK 0220

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 0714

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, US, MA, CB, VS

SUBJECT: EMBASSY PROTEST TO GENERAL ANDRIAMAHAZO AGAINST
ATTACKS ON U.S.

REF: TANANARIVE 0711

SUMMARY: AFTER CONFIRMING THAT ATTACKS ON U.S. IN RATSIRAKA
MESSAGES TO VIET CONG AND SIHANOUK REPRESENTED DECISION OF
MILITARY DIRECTORY, I EXPRESSED ASTONISHMENT AND SHOCK IN
CALL ON CIVILIAN FONMIN (WHO BACKED AWAY FROM MATTER AS ACTION
OF MILITARY DIRECTORY), AND AM SENDING LETTER OF PROTEST TO
DIRECTORY CHAIRMAN, GENERAL ANDRIAMAHAZO. I ASSUME HE WAS
OUTVOTED ON MESSAGES WITHIN COLLEGIAALLY-OPERATED DIRECTORY,
AND REFUSED ATTACH HIS NAME TO THEM. PROTEST DRAFTED IN
MANNER SO THAT HE COULD USE IT TO COUNTER FUTURE PRESSURES IN
DIRECTORY. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY HAS REACTED QUICKLY AND STRONGLY TO ATTACKS ON
U.S. IN MESSAGES SENT BY COMMANDER RATSIRAKA FOR MILITARY
DIRECTORY TO VIET CONG AND SIHANOUK (REFTEL).

2. IN VIEW OF HIGHLY UNUSUAL FACT THAT MESSAGES SENT IN
NAME OF RATSIRAKA FOR MILITARY DIRECTORY, RATHER THAN BY
GENERAL ANDRIAMAHAZO AS CHAIRMAN OF DIRECTORY, WE FIRST
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SOUGHT TO DETERMINE WHETHER MESSAGES AUTHORIZED BY DIRECTORY

OR REPRESENTED INDEPENDENT ACTION BY RATSIRAKA. DCM, IN CALL UPON DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR TO MILITARY DIRECTORY CRESCENT RAKOTOFIRINGA APRIL 16 TO APPRISE HIM OF COMMENCEMENT OF P.O. 480 TITLE I NEGOTIATIONS, RAISED RATSIRAKA CABLES. LATTER POINT HAD BEEN RAISED BRIEFLY ON TELEPHONE WHEN APPOINTMENT WAS MADE TO PERMIT DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR TO DEVELOP MEASURED RESPONSE. RAKOTOFIRINGA WAS NOT VERY FORTHCOMING, BUT WITH SOME COAXING INDICATED THAT RATSIRAKA'S ACTION DID REPRESENT MILITARY DIRECTORY DECISION, RATSIRAKA WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS WITHIN MILITARY DIRECTORY, AND RAKOTOFIRINGA HIMSELF HAD ADVISED AGAINST SENDING CABLES DURING DISCUSSION OF ISSUE BY MILITARY DIRECTORY. DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR DID NOT EVEN OFFER PRO FORMA DEFENSE OF GOMR TELEGRAMS.

3. PURSUANT SUGGESTION BY DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR, I NEXT RAISED MATTER WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ZAKARIASY WHEN OPENING NEGOTIATIONS WITH HIM ON PL 480, TITLE I PROGRAM. I EXPRESSED ASTONISHMENT AND SHOCK THAT SUCH ATTACKS WOULD BE MADE ON FRIENDLY COUNTRY LIKE U.S., PARTICULARLY AT VERY MOMENT WHEN IT DEMONSTRATING SEVERAL MEASURES OF CONCRETE SUPPORT FOR GOMR. NOT SURPRISINGLY, FONMIN IMMEDIATELY BACK AWAY FROM MATTER, PERSONALLY DISSOCIATED HIMSELF FROM MESSAGES, AND STATED THEY EMANATED FROM MILITARY DIRECTORY WITH WHICH THEY SHOULD BE TAKEN UP.

4. I HAVE PREPARED LETTER OF PROTEST IN FRENCH TO GENERAL ANDRIAMHAZO WHICH EMBASSY ENDEAVORING DELIVER THROUGH HIS AIDE-DE-CAMP APRIL 17. TRANSLATION FOLLOWS (UNNECESSARY WORDS OMITTED):

"I WAS ASTONISHED AND SHOCKED BY FLAGRANT ATTACKS ON UNITED STATES IN MESSAGES SENT 'FOR MILITARY DIRECTORY' TO VIET CONG AND SIHANOUK REGIME, ACCORDING TO TEXTS PUBLISHED IN APRIL 16 EDITION OF MADAGASCAR PRESSE.

"I WAS ALL MORE SHOCKED THAT THESE ATTACKS MADE AT TIME WHEN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IS DEMONSTRATING SUPPORT FOR MILITARY DIRECTORY IN SEVERAL IMPORTANT AREAS: ASSISTANCE TO DISASTER VICTIMS, \$3,000,000 LOAN FOR TANANARIVE-TAMATAVE RAILROAD, AND OFFER OF AGREEMENT FOR SALE OF ABOUT 25,000 TONS OF RICE
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ON VERY ADVANTAGEOUS TERMS.

"IF COMMANDER DIDIER RATSIRAKA DID IN FACT SPEAK 'FOR MILITARY DIRECTORY' IN THESE MESSAGES, I AM OBLIGED TO RAISE VIGOROUS PROTEST AGAINST SUCH ATTACKS ON UNITED STATES. THESE ATTACKS ON FRIENDLY COUNTRY SCARCELY CONFORM TO 'POSITIVE NEUTRALISM' WHICH DIRECTORY HAS ADOPTED AS GUIDING PRINCIPLE IN FOREIGN POLICY.

- "I AM ALSO OBLIGED TO COMMUNICATE TO MY GOVERNMENT IN WASHINGTON TEXT OF THESE ATTACKS."

COMPLIMENTARY CLOSING.

5. I ASSUME THAT ANDRIAMHAZO, WHILE HIMSELF OPPOSED, FELT OBLIGED UNDER COLLEGIAL APPROACH TO ACCEDE TO MAJORITY IN DIRECTORY WITH RESPECT TO THESE MESSAGES AND THEIR TENOR. I FURTHER INTERPRET THAT, TO AVOID PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION WITH THEM, THEY WERE NOT SENT, AS WOULD BE CUSTOMARY, IN HIS NAME AS CHAIRMAN OF DIRECTORY, BUT IN RATSIRAKA'S NAME WITHOUT ANY TITLE. THIS WOULD SEEM, HOWEVER, TO WEAKEN ANDRIAMHAZO'S AUTHORITY BOTH WITHIN DIRECTORY AND IN COUNTRY.

6. LETTER OF PROTEST CAREFULLY DRAFTED TO ENABLE ANDRIAMHAZO TO USE IT WITH DIRECTORY AS COUNTER TO PRESSURES ON HIM IF HE CHOOSES DO SO. FOR THAT REASON I AVOIDED SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO HIS ASSURANCE TO ME ON MARCH 14 THAT HE WOULD FOLLOW NEUTRAL POLICY ON SOUTH VIETNAM REPRESENTATION ISSUE (TANANARIVE 0432).

MENDENHALL

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